

The logo for the United States Census 2000, featuring the text "United States Census 2000" in white on a black background.

United States
Census
2000

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The Census Stands by Veterans

A Guide for Veterans and Their Advocates

Information collected by the census on veteran status is used primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veterans' programs dealing with education, employment and health care. Veterans are defined as people, ages 16 and older, who have previously served on active duty (even for a short time) in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Census questions about period and length of military service provide necessary information to estimate the number of veterans who are eligible to receive specific benefits.

Census 2000 Will Benefit Veterans.

- At the state and county levels, information on veteran status is used for budgeting and program planning for medical services and nursing home care.
- Using census information on veterans, local agencies develop health care and other services for elderly veterans under the Older Americans Act.
- Information on veterans is used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans under the Job Training Partnership Act.
- Information on veterans is needed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in planning the locations and sizes of veterans' cemeteries.

Questions on Veteran Status Are Asked Only on the Long Form.

Because the information gathered on veteran status is not needed for small areas, such as individual city blocks, the Census Bureau collects them on the long form — a special census questionnaire that goes out to roughly one in six housing units across the nation. This sample is large enough to produce reliable information for neighborhoods and larger areas of geography. To maintain an acceptable level of accuracy, a larger share of housing units receives a long form in some small towns and rural counties.



Hiring from the community is an important part of Census 2000's strategy for success.

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573
Boston 617-424-4977
Charlotte 704-344-6624
Chicago 312-353-9759
Dallas 214-655-3060
Denver 303-231-5029
Detroit 248-967-9524
Kansas City 816-801-2020
Los Angeles 818-904-6522
New York City 212-620-7702
or 212-620-7703
Philadelphia 215-597-8312
Seattle 206-553-5882

It Is Important for Veterans Who Get the Long Form to Answer the Questions on Disability.

The Americans With Disabilities Act considers an individual to have a disability if he or she has an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The disability questions obtain information about health conditions that limit an individual in activities, such as working at a job, going outside the home alone and taking care of personal needs, such as bathing, dressing or getting around inside the home.

Wherever You Are, the Census Will Be There.

- Census 2000 will count people at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting residence, legal residence or permanent address.
- Some individuals live in one state during the spring, summer and fall, but move to a state in a warmer climate during the winter months (for example, "snowbirds"). These people should be enumerated at the residence where they spend most of their time during the year.
- People receiving short-term care at general hospitals or Veterans Affairs facilities should be included on the form at their usual residence (their home). People receiving care at nursing or convalescent homes will be enumerated by census takers at that facility.

It's Easy to Participate.

- Census 2000 questionnaires will be easy-to-read and simple to fill out.
- For assistance, call the toll-free telephone number printed on the questionnaire.
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers will help people fill out their questionnaires.
- If you do not receive a questionnaire, you can pick one up at a Questionnaire Assistance Center or other public place.

Answering the Census Is Important, Easy and Safe.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with others, including welfare agencies, Immigration, IRS, the courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.

Consider Part Time, Temporary Work With the Census.

The Census Bureau is working with the American Legion, VFW and other veterans' associations to encourage veterans to work for Census 2000. Census workers receive up to three days of structured, paid training in organizing work, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations. They will work in their own communities with daily hands-on coaching from a supervisor. In addition to performing work important to the community, successful employees will receive a letter from the Census Bureau documenting their acquired skills. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census. Call toll-free **1-888-325-7733** for more information about Census 2000 jobs.